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Message Text

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43
ACTION ORM-02

INFO OCT-01 EA-07 IO-13 ISO-00 DHA-02 VO-03 SCA-01 CIAE-00

INSE-00 DODE-00 SY-05 DEAE-00 AID-05 /039 W
---------- 120457
R 151059Z SEP 76
FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3359
INFO AMCONSUL HONG KONG
AMEMBASSY JAKARTA
AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR
AMEMBASSY MANILA
AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE
USMISSION GENEVA
AMCONSUL SONGKHLA

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EO 11652: N/A
TAGS: SREF, TH
SUBJ: INDOCHINESE BOAT CASES

REF: A) BANGKOK 25274, B) KUALA LUMPUR 5223, C) BANGKOK 25559

1. BOAT CARRYING 35 CAMBODIAN REFUGEES EXPELLED FROM SONGKHLA SEPTEMBER 6 (REF A) ARRIVED SAMUT PRAKAN NEAR BANGKOK SEPTEMBER 14. REFUGEES REPORTED THEY HAD BEEN PERMITTED TO SPEND NIGHT IN MALAYSIA'S TRENGGENU PROVINCE SEPTEMBER 7 BEFORE MALAYSIANS PUSHED THEM OFF. THEY HAVE BEEN MAKING THEIR WAY TO SAMUT PRAKAN EVER SINCE. UNHCR OFFICER HAS MET WITH THEM, AND WE BELIEVE THERE IS NO DANGER THAT THEY WILL BE FORCED TO LEAVE PRESENT LOCATION.

2. BOATLOAD OF 47 (VICE 46) REFUGEES PREVIOUSLY REPORTED PATTANI (REF C) HAVE NOW ARRIVED SONGKHLA AND HAD NO TROUBLE LANDING THERE. REFUGEES SEEM TO BE GOOD QUALITY PEOPLE, INCLUDING A DEPUTY PROVINCE CHIEF FROM LAM DONG PROVINCE. A NUMBER HAVE RELATIVES IN U.S., AND EMBASSY WILL SUBMIT BIO INFORMATION
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AS APPROPRIATE.

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3. DARRYL HAN, UNHCR OFFICIAL MAKI G SPECIAL STUDY OF BOAT
PROBLEM FOR HIGH COMMISSIONER, DEPARTED BANGKOK SEPTEMBER 15
FOR KUALA LUMPUR, MALAYSIAN COAST, AND SARAWAK. HE INTENDS
TO CALL AT EMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR AND WOULD APPRECIATE BRIEFING ON
LOCAL PROBLEM, PARTICULARLY AS TO REASONS FOR
OR MALAYSIAN ATTITUDE
ON BOATS. HE NOTED THAT UNHCR HAS PROMISED TO ASSIGN ONE
ADDITIONAL OFFICER TO KUALA LUMPUR. HIS REPORT IS DESIGNED
TO GIVE HIGH COMMISSIONER IDEAS ON SITUATION PRIOR TO OCTOBER
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING, ALTHOUGH HAN ADMITS THAT IT IS
DIFFICULT TO FIND NEW SOLUTIONS. IN LONG RUN, PEOPLE WHO ARE
REALLY NOT HIGH RISK NEED TO BE DISCOURAGED FROM FLEEING,
HE BELIEVES.

4. POST PLEASED TO LEARN THAT UNHCR REPRESENTATIVE HAS JUST
BEEN INFORMED THAT GENEVA IS SENDING HIM ONE ADDITIONAL
OFFICER FOR ONE-TWO MONTHS TO WORK IN SONGKHLA TO HANDLE BOATS
ARRIVING IN SOUTHERN THAILAND. WE BELIEMQOFFICER'S PRESENCE
WILL BE POSITIVE FACTOR IN THAOAREA AND CAN ONLY HOPE THAT
HE WILL BE ABLE TO STAY FOR LONGER PERIOD.
BURKE

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